

RECOGNIZING THE JAVITS-WAGNER-O'DAY PROGRAM AND THE SAN ANTONIO LIGHTHOUSE FOR THE BLIND

**HON. CHARLES A. GONZALEZ**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 13, 2006*

Mr. GONZALEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of the Javits-Wagner-O'Day Program, often referred to as JWOD. This important federal program provides needed employment opportunities for people with disabilities. In fact, JWOD provides more than 40,000 Americans who are blind, or who have other severe disabilities, with the job skills and training necessary to earn good wages and benefits, allowing them to gain greater independence and quality of life.

People with disabilities are often underserved in this nation. They traditionally face an unemployment rate of 70 percent, and thus rely heavily upon social support programs. JWOD empowers these Americans by helping them enjoy full participation in their community and marketing their JWOD skills into other public or private sector jobs. This, in turn, increases their independence and self-esteem.

The National Industries for the Blind (NIB) and NISH work with local nonprofit organizations nationwide to create new employment opportunities for people with blindness or severe disabilities. Such efforts benefit my constituency in San Antonio, Texas. Demonstrating a superlative federal-private sector partnership, NIB, NISH, and local nonprofits, such as San Antonio Lighthouse for the Blind, enhance opportunities for economic and personal independence for people who are blind or who have other severe disabilities, primarily through creating, sustaining, and improving employment.

Through the JWOD program, San Antonio Lighthouse for the Blind provides employment opportunities and training for over 5,000 people each year with visual and other severe disabilities. This enables them to lead more productive and meaningful lives, support their families, and gain important work experience.

On behalf of people with disabilities, I recognize and honor the important contributions of JWOD and the San Antonio Lighthouse for the Blind. Their tireless work to enhance employment opportunities for people with visual and other severe disabilities does a great service to the city of San Antonio and its citizens.

TRIBUTE TO HOUR OF POWER  
FULL GOSPEL TABERNACLE, INC.

**HON. MELISSA A. HART**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 13, 2006*

Ms. HART. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate the Hour of Power Full Gospel Tabernacle, Inc. of Farrell, Pennsylvania on its 30th anniversary.

On Saturday July 1, 2006 the Hour of Power Full Gospel Tabernacle, Inc. will hold its 30-year anniversary celebration at the Shenango Valley Senior Center in Hermitage, Pennsylvania. At the celebration the church will also hold a Recognition Banquet.

I ask my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives to join me in congratulating Hour of Power Full Gospel Tabernacle, Inc. on its 30th Anniversary. It is an honor to represent the Fourth Congressional District of Pennsylvania.

HONORING THE CITY OF MERIDEN,  
CONNECTICUT ON THE OCCASION  
OF ITS 200TH ANNIVERSARY

**HON. NANCY L. JOHNSON**

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 13, 2006*

Mrs. JOHNSON of Connecticut. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the City of Meriden, Connecticut, on the occasion of its 200th Anniversary on June 16, 2006.

This city was known as the North Farms area of nearby Wallingford until 1806, when it was officially recognized as the Town of Meriden. The 1800s saw the beginnings of what would become a torrent of manufacturing activity in the city. Belts, hoops, pewter, guns, cutlery, nails, buttons, lamps, ivory combs, tin ware, organs, coffee grinders, and silver—the product that would lend its luster to Meriden's reputation as the "Silver City"—were all manufactured here. Stately mansions were constructed as manufacturers prospered. As the thriving city's population grew to over 24,000 in 1900, the Castle Craig was dedicated in Hubbard Park and the Curtis Memorial Library opened soon thereafter.

In the 1920s, the airport was built and the downtown traffic tower erected. Although the world wars and the depression brought hardships to the city as well as to the rest of the country, in March 1944, Meriden was proudly honored as "The Nation's Ideal War Community" for its industrial and patriotic contributions to the Nation.

During the mid-1900s, some of the city's older businesses, including International Silver, moved or closed. Urban redevelopment changed the look of some sections, but the "pleasant valley"—possibly the ancient meaning of the name Meriden—endured. Newly arriving immigrants added their own energy to the growing town. Civic groups grew in numbers and in service; daffodils, long planted at Hubbard Park, became the city's official flower with the celebration of the inaugural Daffodil Festival in April 1978.

In recent years, Meriden's downtown has undergone a renaissance, as a new hospital was erected and many corporate headquarters relocated to the east side of town on Research Parkway. City manufacturing firms produce electronics, nuclear instruments, automotive devices, plastics, gaskets, communications equipment, filters, vaccines, jewelry, food, candy, pewter, tools, and machines. The city is proud of its past as it eagerly embraces its future.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to represent the city of Meriden in the United States House of Representatives, and I extend my best wishes to the city and its citizens for another 200 years of prosperity.

IN RECOGNITION OF HAYLEY  
HEATH FOR OUTSTANDING ACADEMIC  
ACHIEVEMENT THROUGH  
NATIONAL HISTORY DAY

**HON. JEFF MILLER**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 13, 2006*

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, it is a great honor for me to rise today to extend my congratulations to Hayley Heath, a student in my district whose academic achievement in her National History Day project will be shared with the Nation.

National History Day encourages students to examine the past in order to create a better future. The students' projects allow for creativity in displays through exhibits, documentaries, and performances as they focus on a specific event or time period in history. In shaping America's future leaders, educators share a certain responsibility in allowing young people the opportunity to thoroughly examine and analyze the subject of history.

Hayley Heath, a student at the PATS Center in Pensacola, Florida, is one student who is seizing this opportunity. Her National History Day project, entitled "Forcing Justice: James Meredith Takes a Stand against Segregation at Ole Miss," won her great recognition at the district and State levels. Hayley was chosen as one of the twelve students selected from over thousands of entries across the Nation to display her National History Day exhibit in the White House Visitor's Center on June 15, 2006.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the United States Congress, I would like to offer my sincere congratulations to a student who serves as a shining example of the hope we invest in the future of our Nation. I congratulate Hayley for her achievement and the recognition she will receive, and commend her for all of her hard work and dedication. I join with the citizens of Florida's First District in wishing her the best in all her future endeavors and thanking her teachers for their guidance as they continue to strive for academic excellence.

IN SUPPORT OF H.R. 850

**HON. TIMOTHY V. JOHNSON**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 13, 2006*

Mr. JOHNSON of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, in the course of my excused absence from official duties on Thursday, June 8, 2006, I regrettably missed the vote on the question of consideration of H. Res. 850, providing for consideration of the bill H.R. 5252, the Communications Opportunity, Promotion, and Enhancement Act of 2006. A point of order arose on the grounds that the bill included unfunded mandates as defined by the Congressional Budget Office, CBO.

It was argued that based on supposed inter-governmental mandates identified by CBO, the threshold required under the rule for identifying the unfunded mandate had been met, and thus was subject to a point of order. CBO stated that in implementation of the COPE Act, new entrants along with incumbent cable